



A PHOENIX TOO FREQUENT

BY CHRISTOPHER FRY

To whom conferr'd a peacock's undecent
A squirrel's harsh, a phoenix too frequent.

(Robert Burton quoting Martial)

A phoenix too frequent? In Egyptian religion the phoenix was a miraculous bird that lived for 500 years. At the end of its five centuries, it was consumed in a funeral pyre fanned by its own wings. From the ashes a new bird appeared, a phoenix with new life and vigor. . . . A phoenix too frequent? Even in his title Fry shows us his tongue well back in his cheek. It remains there throughout the play. . . . A phoenix too frequent? When the play opens, the newly widowed Dynamene, like the phoenix of old, is consuming herself in the flames of her grief, flames that are fanned by her lively sense of the dramatic. And, like the phoenix. . . .

A PHOENIX TOO FREQUENT
by
Christopher Fry

Directed by Wilson O'Connell

THE CAST

DOTO, maid to Dynamene Dorothy O'Connell
DYNAMENE, widow of Virilius Eileen Hickson
TEGEUS, a young corporal Dick Dunham

SCENE: The tomb of Virilius in ancient Ephesus

TIME: Late night

Assistant Director Julie Marcussen
Scenery Bee Hickson
Lighting Mac Cobb
Armor Frank Daniel
Program Frank Daniel

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The story was got from Jeremy Taylor who had it from Petronius